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RULES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEST TASKS

FOR DISCIPLINES INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT’S ACADEMIC RESULTS

A new format of tests – **with the choice of one or more correct answers from the multiple-choice answers** is developed for disciplines included in the list of the subjects of external assessment of student’s academic results.

For the correct choice of all answers the student gets2 (two) points.

For 1 (one)mistake the student gets 1 (one) point.

For 2 (two) mistakes the student gets 0 points.

* The tasks must be formulated as accurately, concisely and clearly as possible.

*The accuracy* of the content is provided by the use of terms, elements of the artificial language, formulas, exception of metaphors and inadequate vocabulary.

*Conciseness* is achieved by careful selection of words, symbols and graphs, which allows the task developers to use minimum resources to achieve maximum clarity in the meaning of the task.

*Clarity* of the content is achieved when all tested students correctly understand  the meaning of the task. For this purpose, repetition of words, vague, rarely used words as well as symbols and foreign words, complicating understanding of the task,are excluded from the its formulation.

According to the level of difficulty, the test tasks are divided into 3 levels:

1 –easy – testingof the knowledge of basic definitions, formulas, laws, principles, sequence of facts, events, knowledge of schemes, histograms, etc.

2 – medium – testing oftheknowledge going beyond simple memorizing: understanding and interpretation of facts, rules and principles; solving problems that require creative understanding of all the discipline and its sections: solving problems using formulas, finding successive connections and similarities in the studied phenomena, processes and events;

3 – difficult – testing of the knowledge requiring a higher level of mastery of the material than simple understanding, allowing the examiners to determine the ability to carry out research work, i.e., the ability to make assumptions in describing future consequences following from the available data, to apply the laws in specific practical cases; the ability to critically evaluate the learning material, to present it in graphs,  diagrams and drawings.

3. The test task must satisfy the following requirements:

1) The task must be a closed-type task.

2) The number of answers in the task must be 5,6,7,8 of which 1, 2, 3 must be correct.

3) The task must be given in the form of a brief judgment formulated in a clear language excluding the ambiguity of the conclusion made by the tested students.

4) It is not allowed to use repetitive phrases in the distractors. It is better to write a long question and short answers, than vice versa.

5) It is not allowedto use imperative mood (“Name”, “Define”, “Choose”, “Findthe odd one out”) in the formulation of the task.

6) The answer to the task must be unambiguous. It is not allowedto use such answers as:“Yes”,“No”, “Right”, “Wrong”,“All the answers are correct”,“All the answers are incorrect”, “There is no correct answer among the given variants”, “There is no correct answer”,“All the above mentioned”, “All of the following”, “It does not refer”,“Separate”, “Determine”,“Select”.“Choose the wrong ... “.

7) The task must be written stylistically and orthographically correctly.

8) All answers must be comparable in length and preferably no longer than one line.

9) The task must be written in the same style. The answer must be a logical conclusion from the stated question.

10) The task must be formulated in the narrative form (no questions are allowed). It isnecessaryto avoid question words (“how”, “why”, “which”).

11) The task must not have intentionally false answers containing a hint, and answers clearly different from the other answers.

12) The task must not contain contradictions, arguable points and negations.

13) The tasks must not be repeated.

14) The tasks must contain the required reference data; at the exam the students are not allowed to use text books, manuals, lecture notes and other information sources besides reference materials given in the passport of the set of tests.

15) All notations of quantities used in the text of the task and answers must be explained and their units of measurement must be specified.

16) It is allowed to use graphic objects inserted in Word, the object size should not exceed A4 format (it is desirable to use jpeg format).

17) The tasks must imply the use of the knowledge gained by the students in the course of studying of the discipline, and the residual knowledge of the subjects studied previously (prerequisites).

18) In compiling the test tasks, it is important to pay attention to the application of the knowledge gained in the tested discipline in the disciplines studied later (post requisites).

19) The minimum number of tests for the disciplines is: 1 credit– 100 test tasks, 2 credits – 200 test tasks, 3 credits – 300 test tasks.